

March 5, 2002

**BE AN ORIGINAL COSPONSOR OF THE
“RESTORATION OF FAIRNESS IN IMMIGRATION ACT OF 2002”**

Deadline: Wednesday, March 6, 2002

Dear Colleague:

Since this nation’s founding, more than 55 million immigrants from every continent have settled in the United States. Immigrants work hard to make ends meet and pay taxes every day. Many immigrants have lived in this country for decades, married U.S. citizens, and raised their U.S.-citizen children. Laws that single these people out for no other reason than their status as immigrants violate their fundamental right to fair treatment.

Yet today, immigrants are bearing the brunt of the most restrictive immigration laws in a generation. Fathers are being deported and separated from their U.S. citizen families for minor offenses which happened years ago because Congress changed the rules retroactively. Children are being denied immigration status after turning 21 years of age while their applications are pending. Families are being prohibited from witnessing their family member’s deportation hearings which historically have been open to the public. Judicial review of many deportation and detention decisions have been eliminated. Immigrants are being detained for lengthy and indefinite periods of time while appeals languish, even though the person was ordered released by an Immigration Judge.

Those who urge us to restrict the due process rights of immigrants forget the reason these rights were established in the first place. We grant due process rights to citizens and non-citizens alike; not out of some soft-hearted sentimentality, but because we believe that these rights form an important cornerstone to maintaining civilized society. Immigrants built our country and continue to bring us unprecedented diversity as well as economic prosperity. The “Restoration of Fairness in Immigration Act of 2002” furthers this proud legacy by restoring our nation’s long standing compassion for individuals seeking to build a better life and reunite with their families.

If you believe the immigration laws have gone to far in their unfair treatment of immigrants, please join me as an original co-sponsor of the “Restoration of Fairness in Immigration Act of 2002,” which I plan to introduce on March 7, 2002.

If you would like to be an original cosponsor, or require further information regarding the legislation, please contact Scott Deutchman or Danielle Brown of the Judiciary Committee staff at x56906.

Sincerely,

John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
Judiciary Committee